APPENDIX F. RESOURCE AGENCY, TRIBAL, AND PUBLIC COORDINATION AND INRMP REVIEW

MCAS Miramar provided the USFWS, CDFG, potentially affected Indian tribal governments, California State Historic Preservation Office, potentially interested parties, MCAS Miramar lessees/easement holders, and the general public with opportunities to review and comment on drafts of the INRMP and its associated EA. The Draft INRMP and its associated Draft EA were made available in local public libraries from August 1 through September 15, 2010, and they were posted on the MCAS Miramar web site during the same period. On July 30-31 and August 1, 2010, a Public Notice was placed in The San Diego Union-Tribune announcing the availability of the Draft INRMP and Draft EA for review and comment in local libraries and on the MCAS Miramar web site. The following copies of letters are representative of the correspondence associated with these actions. The first two letters are concurrences from the CDFG and USFWS.

Coordination with the USFWS and CDFG



United States Department of the Interior

FISH A WILDLIFE SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office 6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101 Carlsbad, California 92011

In Reply Refer To: FWS-SDG-08B0449-10CPA0049

AUG 0 8 2011

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas C. Fries Environmental Management Officer Environmental Management Department Marine Corps Air Station Miramar P.O. Box 452001 San Diego, California 92145-2001

Subject:

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for Marine Corps Air Station

Miramar, San Diego County, California

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Fries:

We have reviewed the April 2011 Final Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) for Marine Corps Air Station Miramar (MCAS Miramar). This INRMP has been developed pursuant to the Sikes Act Improvement Act (SAIA) of 1997. As stated in the SAIA, the purpose of the INRMP is to provide for the conservation of natural resources on the installation while continuing to support the military mission.

Beginning in May 2009, U.S. Marine Corps (Marine Corps) staff at MCAS Miramar engaged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and California Department of Fish and Game in revision of the current INRMP. The Marine Corps has provided all draft INRMP documents to us for review and comment and has incorporated many Service-recommended changes and additions.

The Service concurs with the MCAS Miramar INRMP. We believe it provides valuable biological information and includes a framework for managing and conserving sensitive natural resources on MCAS Miramar, while achieving the military mission of the installation.

As expressed in our comments on Chapter 6 of the draft INRMP, we recommend that mapping of "occupied habitat" include an evaluation of suitable habitat in proximity to documented species locations to ensure impacts to federally listed species and their habitats are appropriately assessed and offset. In addition, when evaluating the significance of project impacts on federally listed species and identifying appropriate conservation actions to avoid, minimize, and offset these impacts, we recommend that occupation be given greater value and consideration than habitat



characterizations based simply on percent plant cover (e.g., characterizing habitat with less than 50 percent plant cover as "disturbed" even though densely occupied by a federally listed species may lead to inadequate conservation actions to address and offset species impacts).

In your letter requesting our concurrence on the INRMP, you also requested our concurrence that management actions described in Chapters 7 and 9 are not likely to adversely affect federally listed species. However, we have since agreed that the effects of implementing the management actions described in Chapters 7 and 9 of the INRMP will be addressed in future consultations as necessary on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, formal consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, on this INRMP is not required at this time.

Thank you for your coordination and communication regarding the MCAS Miramar INRMP. We look forward to participation in future reviews of the INRMP and related conservation planning on MCAS Miramar.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jonathan Snyder of my staff at 760-431-9440, extension 307.

Sincerely,

Jim A. Bartel Field Supervisor



State of California -The Natural Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr. Governor

JOHN McCAMMAN, Director



South Coast Region 3883 Ruffin Road San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 467-4201 www.dfg.ca.gov

July 15, 2011

Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar Attn: Lt. Col. T.C. Fries Environmental Management Officer (S7) P.O. Box 452001, Building 6022 San Diego, CA 92145-2001

Subject: Department of Fish and Game Endorsement of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar

Dear Lt. Col. T.C. Fries:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) has reviewed the final draft 2011-2015 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar. The Sikes Act Improvement Act (SAIA) of 1997 requires that Marine Corps prepare the INRMP in cooperation with the appropriate State Fish and Wildlife Agency (i.e., the Department). The Department is responsible for the conservation, protection, and management of the state's biological resources, including rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species, pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act. The Department also administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning Program. The SAIA requires that the INRMP be reviewed and updated every five years. The Marine Corps provided the Department with an earlier draft version of the 2011-2015 INRMP on July 28, 2010 for our review and comments. The Department responded to the Marine Corps with a letter of comment on January 21, 2011 and subsequently, we received the Marine Corps' responses to our comments and a description of corresponding revisions made to the INRMP on February 22, 2011. We are submitting this letter in response to the Marine Corps' request for the Department's endorsement of the final version of the 2011-2015 INRMP.

The Department commends the Marine Corps' efforts to work closely with the Department and other stakeholders, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), to develop the INRMP. Our involvement with this update of the INRMP has included an initial scoping meeting with MCAS Miramar staff, INRMP consultants, and stakeholders on September 23, 2009, and review of the initial and final drafts of the INRMP document. Since 2005 the Department has also participated in Miramar's annual Metrics Review which is a process whereby the

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Lt. Col. T.C. Fries July 15, 2011 Page 2 of 3

Marine Corps measures INRMP implementation and reports its findings to Congress, as required by the SAIA.

We appreciate the Marine Corps' careful consideration of our suggestions and concerns as demonstrated by the Corps' responses to our comments and revisions to the INRMP. The final draft of the 2011-2015 INRMP addresses the majority of the Department's concerns regarding the conservation, preservation. and management of fish and wildlife resources on MCAS Miramar. Revisions to the INRMP made in response to the Department's suggestions included the addition of sections which discussed the relationship of the INRMP to the California State Wildlife Action Plan, and the addition of information on State listing status of species to Table 4.6 (Special Status Species Known or Potentially Occurring on MCAS Miramar). The other revision included the addition of a Burrowing Owl Population Survey as a project that will be eligible for funding if additional management funding becomes available. The 2011-2015 INRMP also includes a new provision which is in response to comments made by the Department and the Service (together the Wildlife Agencies). These comments state that there will be more specificity with regard to "enhancement" activities that are performed in response to temporary impacts to certain habitats. This is due to the fact that there is currently a requirement that enhancement work must be described in a plan and have measurable performance criteria. Also, in response to the Wildlife Agencies' concerns, the 2011-2015 INRMP now states that conservation and restoration sites should be of equivalent biological value to target species compared to the impacted habitat.

The Marine Corps did not concur with the Wildlife Agencies' recommendations that the INRMP should apply a broader definition of "occupied habitat" for listed species that would go beyond areas where listed species are regularly observed and would include more interstitial habitat. This habitat might be used for occasional foraging or dispersal or as part of a breeding territory in the future. The Marine Corps believes that the INRMP's guidelines calling for compensation for rare but unoccupied plant community types, combined with the INRMP's guidance regarding maintenance of a minimum width of 500 feet for wildlife movement corridors, should be sufficient to maintain population connectivity and compensate for loss of habitat that is used infrequently by listed species. Additionally, the Marine Corps was not in agreement with the Wildlife Agencies concerning the standard mitigation ratio for offsetting impacts to "disturbed" sensitive habitats. The Marine Corps did not agree that ratios such as coastal sage scrub or riparian habitat should be increased from 1:1 to 2:1. The Marine Corps states that in view of their military land use needs, they must maintain land use flexibility, and cannot commit to compensating at this high level for disturbed habitat or converting disturbed land to additional "sensitive habitat". However, a specification has been added to the 2011-2015 INRMP requiring that project-specific updates of vegetation and land cover mapping must be performed prior to determining

Lt. Col. T.C. Fries July 15, 2011 Page 3 of 3

appropriate mitigation ratios. This specification will aide in accounting for changes to the condition and habitat quality of an area which may be impacted over time.

In closing, notwithstanding the Department's outstanding concerns regarding mitigation planning, we appreciate the Marine Corps' efforts to work with the Department and other stakeholders to conserve, protect, and manage fish and wildlife resources on MCAS Miramar. This letter provides our endorsement of the 2011-2015 INRMP. The Department looks forward to continuing our involvement with future reviews and revisions of the INRMP. Questions regarding this letter and further coordination concerning these issues should be directed to Meredith Osborne, Associate Biologist (Botany) at (858) 636-3163 in our Regional Office in San Diego.

Sincerely,

Edmund Pert Regional Manager

California Department of Fish and Game

El A Pet

cc: Jonathan Snyder, USFWS, Carlsbad

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR P.O. BOX 452001 SAN DIEGO CA 92145-2001

IN REPLY REFER TO: . 5090 3 4 4 7 2 0 MAY 2011

Mr. Jim Bartel, Field Office Supervisor U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office 6010 Hidden Valley Road Carlsbad, California 92011

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Subj: ENDORSEMENT OF MCAS MIRAMAR INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP)

In accordance with the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-85), Department of Defense, and U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) policy, we have prepared a revision of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar (Station) INRMP to address natural resources management on the Station in support of our military mission for the period of 2011 - 2015. The preparation of this INRMP has been accomplished in cooperation with staff of the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Carlsbad Field Office and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) South Coast Regional Office to reflect mutual agreement concerning conservation, protection, and management of natural resources on the Station as described below. The purpose of this letter is to provide the draft final INRMP and to request a letter of endorsement from your agency indicating that the document reflects mutual agreement. Your letter will be bound in the final INRMP document. Additionally, we request USFWS concurrence that the implementation of the specific management actions described in Chapters 7 and 9 of the INRMP are not likely to adversely affect any threatened or endangered species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Our coordination with USFWS and CDFG began with notification of our intent to revise the INRMP and solicitation of comments on the project scope of work in May 2009. Following award of a contract to support preparation of the INRMP, staff from the USFWS, CDFG, MCAS Miramar, and MCAS Miramar's contractor participated in a scoping meeting on September 23, 2009. On July 28, 2010, we transmitted a draft INRMP to the USFWS and CDFG local offices soliciting review and comment.

During the period of July 27 - September 15, 2010, we published a public notice, sent letters to potentially interested parties, and posted the draft INRMP on our web site for review and comment. We received review comment on the draft INRMP from your office in January 2011. Appendix F of the INRMP provides copies of correspondence from many of these efforts. As directed by USMC policy, for your reference we have enclosed comment matrices with this transmittal that present the comments received from the state and federal fish and wildlife agencies and public along with description of revisions made to the draft INRMP. On February 22, 2011, and in advance of preparing the enclosed draft final INRMP, we

shared our proposed responses to your comments via e-mail with Mr. Jonathan Snyder of your office. On March 22, 2011, following no objection, we proceeded to produce the enclosed draft final for which we now seek your endorsement.

As we finalize the INRMP with all endorsements bound inside, we are making three updates to the INRMP during final production that are not in the enclosed draft final INRMP. This is a result of the extended period between the preparation of the draft INRMP and the enclosed draft final INRMP. One update addresses the recent USFWS determination regarding the listing of the Hermes Copper Butterfly, published in the Federal Register on April 14, 2011. The second reports results from recent completion of protocol surveys for the Quino Checkerspot butterfly in 2011 that did not find the species on MCAS Miramar. The third adds text regarding new locations of breeding least Bell's vireos found during spring 2011 surveys.

In conducting your reviews, please note that the final draft INRMP is written as though this coordination has been completed and mutual agreement/concurrence has been received. Your letters of concurrence will be bound within Appendix F of the final INRMP.

We ask that you provide a letter with your concurrence within 60 days of receiving this letter. Our point of contact is Mr. David Boyer, Director, Natural Resources Division, at (858) 577-1125.

Sincerely,

T. C. FRIES

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps Environmental Management Officer By direction of the Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Final Draft INRMP (1 printed/1 CD copy)

2. Agency Comment/Response Matrix

3. Public Comment/Response Matrix

Copy to: HQ, U.S. Marine Corps w/o enclosure

Marine Corps Installations-West, Environmental Security

Note: Attachments not included.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR P.O. BOX 452001 SAN DIEGO CA 92145-2001

> IN REPLY REFER TO: 5090 **3 4 4 6 1 3 MAY 2011**

Mr. Edmund Pert, Regional Manager California Department of Fish and Game South Coast Region 4949 Viewridge Avenue San Diego, California 92123

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Subj: ENDORSEMENT OF MCAS MIRAMAR INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP)

In accordance with the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-85), Department of Defense, and U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) policy, we have prepared a revision of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar (Station) INRMP to address natural resources management on the Station in support of our military mission for the period of 2011 - 2015. The preparation of this INRMP has been accomplished in cooperation with staff of the local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Carlsbad Field Office and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) South Coast Regional Office to reflect mutual agreement concerning conservation, protection, and management of natural resources on the Station as described below. The purpose of this letter is to provide the draft final INRMP and to request a letter of endorsement from your agency indicating that the document reflects mutual agreement. Your letter will be bound in the final INRMP document.

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As we finalize the INRMP with all endorsements bound inside, we are making three updates to the INRMP during final production that are not in the enclosed draft final INRMP. This is a result of the extended period between the preparation of the draft INRMP and the enclosed draft final INRMP. One update addresses the recent USFWS determination regarding the listing of the Hermes Copper Butterfly, published in the Federal Register on April 14, 2011. The second reports results from recent completion of protocol surveys for the Quino Checkerspot butterfly in 2011 that did not find the species on MCAS Miramar. The third adds text regarding new locations of breeding least Bell's vireos found during spring 2011 surveys.

In conducting your reviews, please note that the final draft INRMP is written as though this coordination has been completed and mutual agreement/concurrence has been received. Your letters of concurrence will be bound within Appendix F of the final INRMP.

We ask that you provide a letter with your concurrence within 60 days of receiving this letter. Our point of contact is Mr. David Boyer, Director, Natural Resources Division, at (858) 577-1125.

Sincerely,

T. C. FRIES

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps Environmental Management Officer By direction of the Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Final Draft INRMP (1 printed/1 CD copy)

Agency Comment/Response Matrix
 Public Comment/Response Matrix

Copy to: HQ, U.S. Marine Corps w/o enclosure

Marine Corps Installations-West, Environmental Secuirty

Note: Attachments not included.



<u>State of California - The Natural Resources Agency</u> <u>Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME</u> John McCamman, Director

South Coast Region 4949 Viewridge Avenue San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 467-4201 www.dfg.ca.gov

January 21, 2011

Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar Attn: Lt. Col T.C. Fries, Env. Mgmt. Officer (S7) P.O. Box 452001, Building 6022 San Diego, CA 92145-2001

Subject: Comments on the Draft 2011-2015 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Implementation of the 2011-2015 INRMP for the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego County, California

Dear Lt. Fries:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) has reviewed the draft EA and draft 2011-2015 INRMP for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar (Station) referenced above. The INRMP, pursuant to the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 (SAIA) is to be prepared by the Marine Corps in cooperation with the appropriate State Fish and Wildlife Agency (i.e., the Department). The Department is responsible for the conservation, protection, and management of the state's biological resources, including rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species, pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act. The Department also administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning Program, which creates regional biological conservation plans.

This version of the INRMP will guide implementation of the natural resources program on MCAS Miramar from 2011-2015. The purpose of the INRMP is to conserve natural resources and ensure compliance with environmental laws while helping to maintain quality training lands and ensuring the military mission of the Station.

MCAS Miramar occupies approximately 23,065 acres within San Diego County, about 15 miles north of downtown San Diego and 4 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Most of the commercial, administrative, operational, and residential facilities are contained in the area west of Kearny Villa Road (the Main Station and South/West Miramar).

Wetlands on MCAS Miramar include vernal pools, vernal marshes, fresh water marshes, riparian corridors, and ponds. Based on vegetation mapping conducted in 1994 and 2002, MCAS Miramar supports 18 native and non-native vegetation communities. Several vegetation types on the Station are considered sensitive, including; coastal sage scrub (3,770 acres, of which 2,006 acres are classified as disturbed), native grassland (24 acres of disturbed and undisturbed combined), riparian forest (160 acres, of which 6 are disturbed), and coast live oak woodland (7 acres).

Extensive complexes of vernal pools and their associated watersheds occur on the MCAS Miramar. Six vernal pool-associated species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) are found on the Station. Five are listed as endangered: San Diego button-celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*), which is also listed by the State as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), San Diego mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*), also

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Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar January 21, 2011 Page 2 of 5

CESA-listed as endangered, California Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*), also CESA-listed as endangered, San Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus wootonni*), and San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*). One species, spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), is ESA-listed as threatened.

Coastal sage scrub (CSS) habitat on MCAS Miramar supports the ESA-listed threatened Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*) (gnatcatcher). Recent surveys (2009) recorded approximately 50 breeding pairs of gnatcatcher on the Station. Within chaparral habitat on the Station is found the ESA-listed endangered Del Mar manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa* var. *crassifolia*)

Riparian habitat on MCAS Miramar supports breeding pairs of the CESA-listed and ESA-listed endangered bird species, Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*). Among the plant species found in riparian habitat on the Station is the ESA-listed and CESA-listed endangered willowy monardella (*Monardella viminea*).

The Marine Corps is obligated to conserve ESA-listed species and those proposed for listing under provisions of the ESA. Aside from ESA-listed plant and animal species occurring on the Station there are also species of regional Special Concern. These include federal Species of Special Concern; State of California CESA-listed species (all of the CESA-listed species that occur on the Station are also ESA-listed); State of California Species of Special Concern, Bird Species of Concern (as identified by the Department of Defense), and species listed by the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (2001). While not regulated under ESA, these species of concern would be considered through National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. Under NEPA, unmitigated loss or effects to important quantities of regionally- or locally-declining species (i.e. federal species of special concern and species considered rare, threatened, or endangered by the State of California) would be considered significant.

Canyons on the Station serves as wildlife corridors with various degrees of constraint, providing for north-south and east-west passage through the Station and out to adjacent open space areas. The entire eastern portion of MCAS Miramar serves as an important habitat linkage with adjacent open spaces including Mission Trails Regional Park. Two highly constrained corridors in Western Miramar link to Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve.

MCAS Miramar has designated Management Areas (MAs) that encompass all of the land on the Station in order to help guide planning and management of natural resources on the Station. MAs are organized by differing resource conservation requirements and management concerns, with decreasing priority for conservation with each level, with Level V being the lowest priority. Level 1 MAs (2,638 acres) support almost all the vernal pool habitat including basins and watersheds and some closely associated California gnatcatcher territories. Level II MAs (5,824 acres) focus on federally listed species not associated with vernal pools. Level III MAs (1,785 acres) support riparian and marsh vegetation, wildlife movement corridors, and habitat linkages that are not already included in Levels I and II. Level IV MAs (7,532 acres) do not support substantial high value or regulated resources. Operational activities in Level IV MAs include foot and vehicle traffic that have limited impact to resources. Level V MAs (5,259 acres) are associated with developed land-uses and are considered first for placement of any new facilities.

Miramar is located within the City of San Diego's Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA). While MCAS Miramar is not bound by the MSCP, it

Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar January 21, 2011 Page 3 of 5

contributes to its conservation goals through the INRMP, and by conserving sensitive resources and maintaining important habitat linkages and corridors.

The Department has reviewed the draft EA and 2011-2015 INRMP and offers the following specific and general comments:

Burrowing Owl

MCAS Miramar supports habitat for burrowing owl, which is both a federal and California Species of Special Concern. There has been a dramatic reduction in numbers of resident breeding, as well as wintering, burrowing owls in coastal southern California. The species is under imminent threat of extirpation from San Diego County.

Focused surveys for burrowing owl have not been conducted on the Station to date; rather, incidental observations are noted by Environmental Department staff or biological contractors; for example, Appendix C of the draft INRMP indicates the species was observed during 2009 Long Term Ecosystem Monitoring sampling. No potentially breeding pairs of burrowing owl have been recorded on the Station since 1994, according to Table 4.7 in the INRMP.

We recommend that focused surveys for burrowing owl be conducted on the MCAS Miramar. The Department would appreciate receiving the information resulting from these surveys. The Department's 1995 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation and the Burrowing Owl Consortium's 1992 Burrowing Owl Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines include survey methods as well as passive relocation guidelines. If burrowing owls are detected, impacts to burrowing owl should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Any individuals that would be impacted (this includes indirect impacts to them by destruction of their habitat) should be relocated out of the impact area using passive or active methodologies approved by the Wildlife Agencies. If nesting burrowing owls are found to be occupying the site, the Department recommends avoidance and mitigation measures as recommended in the above referenced guidelines to assist in avoiding take and to mitigate for unavoidable loss of burrowing owl habitat. Additional information regarding the Department's burrowing owl conservation measures may be viewed online by entering "Burrowing Owl Consortium" as a search topic. Mitigation for impacts to habitat occupied by nesting owls should be through the conservation of occupied burrowing owl habitat or conservation of lands appropriate for restoration, management and enhancement of burrowing owl nesting and foraging requirements.

Mitigation Planning

Mitigation guidance for temporary and permanent habitat loss, including mitigation ratios for impacts to different vegetation and habitat types are included in Chapter 6 of the draft INRMP in Tables 6.2.2.2a and 6.2.2.2b. The mitigation requirements vary depending on the habitat type, the level of management area (I-V) in which the habitat occurs, and whether or not it is occupied by threatened and/or endangered (T/E species).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provided comments on the draft INRMP dated January 10, 2011. The Service expressed some concerns and made some recommendations regarding the project and mitigation planning guidance in Chapter 6. The Department concurs with the Service's recommendations, including the following:

Vegetation cover goals for enhancement of different habitat types (recommended in Table 6.2.2a) should be made quantifiable.

Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar January 21, 2011 Page 4 of 5

The standard ratio for offsetting impacts to "disturbed", gnatcatcher-occupied CSS or other sensitive native habitat types such as riparian vegetation should be increased and more closely reflect those adhered to by other agencies and private entities.

The category of "occupied" CSS should be broadened to include suitable habitat between and adjacent to documented gnatcatcher breeding territories and should include areas that are utilized as breeding territory only in some years and not others.

Sites selected to offset biological impacts should be of equivalent biological value to the target species.

Table 6.2.2.2b, Mitigation Guidance for Permanent Habitat Loss, recommends habitat compensation for chaparral, non-native grassland, and mixed grassland, that are unoccupied by T&E species only if NEPA analysis identifies significant impacts to other sensitive or declining species. The Department recommends that for grassland habitat, impacts on utilization by raptors (particularly burrowing owls) be considered potentially significant during the NEPA process. Non-native grasslands and ruderal areas in San Diego County provide important foraging habitat for raptors. Impacts to grassland areas that are determined to be of importance to raptor species should be offset through conservation or enhancement of grassland habitat. The Department is particularly concerned that large blocks of wildlife habitat remain fully functional and maintain viable connections on both a regional and local scale, as appropriate. The cumulative loss of suitable habitat for raptors and burrowing owls on MCAS Miramar should be mitigated in a manner which would provide a clear long-term benefit to these species.

California Wildlife Action Plan

The California Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) is a recent Department guidance document, published in 2007, that aims to identify on a regional basis the species and habitats of greatest conservation need, the major stressors affecting native wildlife and habitats, and the actions needed to restore and conserve wildlife within the State of California. The WAP identifies the following stressors affecting wildlife and habitats within the coastal Southern California area: 1) growth and development; 2) water management conflicts and degradation of aquatic ecosystems, including vernal pools, river systems, and riparian wetlands, and coastal wetlands; 3) invasive species; 4) altered fire regimes; and 5) recreational pressures. The WAP seeks cooperation between federal, State, local agencies, and private conservancies to achieve its conservation goals, which include protecting wildland linkages, protecting and restoring the best remaining examples of coastal wetlands and ecologically intact river systems, protecting sensitive species and important wildlife habitats, controlling or eradicating existing occurrences of invasive species and preventing new introductions, and instituting appropriate fire management policies and practices.

Specifically, the WAP recommends protection of land adjacent to MCAS Miramar, which would protect the mission of the Station, reduce conflicts between the base's mission and sensitive species, and enhance the Station's contribution to the regional network of conservation lands. We understand that MCAS Miramar has not yet been actively pursuing conservation of adjacent properties through the Department of Defense Conservation Buffer program. However, funds have been requested for preparation of a report identifying potential opportunities for conservation buffering and mitigation off-station in adjacent areas. There is a brief discussion of this process in section 6.2.3.2 of the INRMP, titled "Encroachment Partnering". The Station has, so far, taken advantage of one opportunity for conservation buffering. In working with the

Commanding Officer, MCAS Miramar January 21, 2011 Page 5 of 5

Veteran's Administration (VA), MCAS Miramar requested that they seek off-station mitigation for coastal sage scrub vegetation affected by the Fort Rosecrans Cemetery Annex project. Through a conservation easement and preservation agreement with the City of San Diego, the VA secured acreage south of the Station's southeastern boundary that is contiguous with Mission Trails Regional Park.

In 2007, a Partnering Workshop for Integrating State Wildlife Action Plans with Department of Defense INRMPs was conducted at the Carlsbad Office of the Service. USMAC Miramar representative David Boyer was in attendance at this meeting. Department and USMAC Miramar staff have continued discussing the integration of the WAP and the INRMP at several annual Metrics meetings that have taken place since the Partnering Workshop. The WAP is now undergoing revision and is expected to be final in spring 2012. We hope to continue discussions with MCAS Miramar during the WAP revision process and look forward to working with the MCAS Miramar to minimize the stressors to fish and wildlife resources identified in the WAP. We encourage addition of a section discussing the WAP to the INRMP, perhaps to Chapter 5, in which land use compatibility is discussed.

General Comments

The Department requests that the California state listing status under CESA be included in Table 4.6 (Special Status Species Known or Potentially Occurring on MCAS Miramar) along with the federal listing status. A number of the species in this table are State-listed under CESA as endangered.

It would be helpful if the State CESA listing status and the CNPS listing status were included in Appendix B: Plant Species Know to Occur at MCAS Miramar.

The Latin name of Western burrowing owl is cited as "Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea" in Table 4.7 but cited as "Athene cunicularia" in Appendix C.

The first grouping of Vegetation/Habitat Type in both Table 6.2.2.2a and 6.2.2.2b reads "Chaparral, Non-native and Mixed Grassland, Woodland, and Eucalyptus". We believe it should read "Chaparral, Non-native and Mixed Grassland, and Eucalyptus Woodland".

The Department appreciates the Marine Corp's interest in coordinating with the Department on the INRMP. If you have any questions or comments pertaining to this letter, please contact Meredith Osborne at (858) 636-3163.

Sincerely,

Edmund Pert Regional Manager South Coast Region

David Boyer, MCAS Miramar, Environmental Management Division

Jonathan Snyder, USFWS

Meredith Osborne, DFG, San Diego



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101
Carlsbad, California 92011



In Reply Refer To: FWS-SDG-08B0449-11TA0270

FEB 0 9 2011

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas C. Fries Environmental Management Officer Environmental Management Department Marine Corps Air Station Miramar P.O. Box 452001 San Diego, California 92145-2001

Attention: David Boyer

Subject: Review and Comments on the Draft Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan

for 2011-2015, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego County, California

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Fries:

We have reviewed the July 2010 Draft Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (Draft INRMP) for Marine Corps Air Station Miramar (MCAS Miramar). In general, we believe that the Draft INRMP does an excellent job describing the natural resources on MCAS Miramar and the actions that will be implemented by the U.S. Marine Corps (Marine Corps) to protect and manage these resources. Most of our comments regarding the Draft INRMP address the section on mitigation planning for projects (Chapter 6). This section of the INRMP has been a useful tool when consulting with the Marine Corps pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) because it provides guidelines for how the Marine Corps will typically proceed with project development and the implementation of conservation measures. However, based on our recent experience consulting with the Marine Corps regarding project-related impacts to federally listed species, we have several suggestions that we believe will help address ambiguities in this section of the document and ensure that project-related impacts to listed species and their habitat are fully offset.

Definition of Disturbed Habitat

In the Draft INRMP, much of the habitat on MCAS Miramar is mapped or described as "disturbed habitat," but this habitat type is not well-defined. In sections 4.2.1 through 4.2.9 of the document, "disturbed habitat" refers to disturbed versions of native and non-native vegetation types [e.g., disturbed coastal sage scrub (CSS), disturbed chaparral, disturbed grassland]. Disturbed versions of native and non-native vegetation types appear to be support enough vegetation to be classified as a certain habitat type, but contain less than 50 percent cover by



those species typical of the community (e.g., CSS with less than 50 percent cover by native shrubs).

The second way that "disturbed habitat" is characterized is as a distinct habitat type. In Section 4.2.12, disturbed habitat is defined as areas where "more than half of the area is covered by species adapted to disturbance, especially forbs, or by bare ground." Presumably, areas defined exclusively as disturbed habitat are so disturbed that they don't qualify as any vegetation type other than disturbed habitat, but the definition provided in Section 4.2.12 does not make this clear.

To avoid confusion regarding the definition of "disturbed habitat," we recommend that different terms be used to describe 1) disturbed versions of other habitat types and 2) disturbed habitat as a distinct habitat type. For example, "disturbed habitat" could potentially be eliminated as a habitat type and replaced with a category such as "non-native forbes and unvegetated areas."

Standards for Habitat Enhancement

In Chapter 6, which addresses mitigation planning for projects, Table 6.2.2a includes a commitment to "enhance" certain habitat types (e.g., CSS, riparian, vernal pool) if there are temporary impacts to these habitat types. The term "enhancement" should be defined for each of the habitat types in a quantitative manner. We recognize that enhancement is not the same as full-scale restoration, but the goals should still be quantifiable. For example, enhancement of CSS or riparian vegetation could consist of increasing native cover by a specified amount or removing a specified amount of non-native invasive plant species from native habitat that has been degraded by invasives. We recommend that detailed descriptions of enhancement actions, including quantitative performance criteria for areas to be enhanced, be included in restoration plans along with traditional restoration actions.

Offsetting Impacts to Disturbed Habitat

We recommend that Table 6.2.2.a and 6.2.2b include required measures to offset impacts to disturbed versions of each of the vegetation communities. In the Draft INRMP, these tables include the following footnote: "For disturbed categories, refer to text instructions of this section for using guidance provided in this table. Mitigation ratios should be equitable with the quality of vegetation/habitat impacted." In practice, this guidance has meant that impacts to habitat that supports listed species but has less than 50 percent cover of representative species (e.g., native shrubs or trees) are offset at a 1:1 ratio instead of at the 2:1 ratio used for mature habitat. Thus, disturbed habitat is treated as having half the biological value of mature habitat. This approach to offsetting impacts to disturbed habitat does not appear to reflect the actual biological value of these habitats for listed species on MCAS Miramar. For example, most of the CSS on Miramar that is occupied by the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*, "gnatcatcher") is characterized as disturbed, but is nevertheless densely occupied by

gnatcatchers, as shown in Figure 4.6 of the Draft INRMP. Therefore, we recommend that the standard ratio for offsetting impacts to disturbed CSS or other sensitive native habitat types, such as riparian vegetation, be increased and included in Table 6.2.2a and 6.2.2b.

Mapping of Occupied Habitat

Tables 6.2.2.a and 6.2.2b propose different measures to offset impacts to habitat that is occupied by listed species vs. habitat that is unoccupied. In general, more conservation or restoration is proposed to offset impacts to habitat that is occupied by listed species. This approach is fairly standard, and we do not disagree with the general approach. However, in practice, occupied habitat is narrowly defined as only those areas where listed species are regularly observed, and lines are drawn around breeding territories that eliminate adjacent areas that are likely used for occasional foraging and dispersal and may be used as part of a breeding territory in the future. Therefore, we recommend that occupied habitat be defined more broadly to include more suitable habitat that is adjacent to and between documented breeding territories. For clarification, please explain how occupied habitat is defined when there are multiple years of survey data that show that habitat is sometimes used as part of a breeding territory and sometimes is not.

Selection of Conservation and Restoration Sites

Within Chapter 6 of the INRMP, there should be a statement that conservation and restoration sites should be equivalent to the impacted habitat in terms of biological value to target species. Important factors when evaluating biological value include density of target species, proximity to the coast (for gnatcatcher, in particular, proximity to the coast is closely tied to biological value), and importance for habitat connectivity. In addition, conservation and restoration sites that are closer to the impact area should be targeted so that the impacts are more directly offset.

Passive Restoration in Native Habitat

When certain vegetation types (e.g., chaparral and riparian vegetation) are temporarily impacted, the Draft INRMP proposes only passive restoration (i.e., allowing vegetation to recover on its own, with no weeding or planting). For all sites that support native vegetation, we recommend that weeding, at a minimum, be conducted as necessary to ensure that temporarily impacted sites do not become dominated by non-native weeds following project completion.

Offsetting Impacts to Chaparral and Grassland with Conservation/Restoration of CSS

The Draft INRMP proposes to offset impacts to chaparral and non-native grassland exclusively through restoration and conservation of the same habitat type. Considering the relatively low sensitivity of these habitat types, we recommend that the INRMP include sufficient flexibility to allow impacts to these habitat types to be offset through conservation and restoration of coastal sage scrub, when biologically appropriate. For example, if grassland that is being used by

gnatcatcher is temporarily impacted, we recommend that the temporarily impacted site be restored with coastal sage scrub if the soils are appropriate to support it.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we commend the Marine Corps for its commitment to protecting the unique biological resources on MCAS Miramar and encourage the Marine Corps to address our recommendations regarding project planning and consultation. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft INRMP. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, please contact Jonathan Snyder, Division Chief, at (760) 431-9440 extension 307.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Goebel

Assistant Field Supervisor

Jouthe Dryan



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR P.O. BOX 452001 SAN DIEGO, CA 92145-2001

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5090 3 2 3 1 2 8 JUL 2010

Field Supervisor Carlsbad Field Office U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service 6010 Hidden Valley Road Carlsbad, Ca 92009

Environmental Program Manager California Department of Fish and Game 4949 Viewridge Avenue San Diego, CA 92123

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR DRAFT INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

As part of our continuing coordination for the update of our Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), we are providing the enclosed Draft INRMP and Environmental Assessment (EA) on implementation for your review and comment. We believe that we incorporated your comments expressed during our communications during our scope of work development and initial scoping meeting with Ms. Meredith Osborne, Ms. Felicia Sirchia, and Ms. Kathleen Brubaker.

Concurrent with our transmission of the Draft INRMP and EA for your review and comment, we are soliciting public review and comment on the document. This is being accomplished by placing the document in local libraries, transmitting notification letters, and posting the document on the environmental portion of the MCAS Miramar web site linked from: http://www.miramar.usmc.mil/ems/environmental_programs/nat_resources/managementplan.htm.

Please note that in the document we state our opinion that the planned natural resource management actions identified in the INRMP are not likely to adversely affect any threatened or endangered species. We also believe that our updated INRMP will continue to provide benefits to threatened and endangered species on MCAS Miramar for which critical habitat has been designated or proposed. We are anticipating your concurrence with respect to these points upon the completion of our INRMP development process. Following receipt of your comments and those from the public, a Final Draft INRMP will be prepared for transmittal to your office for formal letter of concurrence that will be bound in the Final INRMP.

Please provide us with written acknowledgement that you received the enclosed draft INRMP and implementing EA within 15 days of receipt. We request that you transmit any comments you have such that we will receive them by September 15, 2010. In transmitting your comments, please use the following address:

COMMANDING OFFICER MCAS MIRAMAR ATTN ENVIRON MGMT DEPT(S7) (NAT RES) P O Box 452001 BUILDING 6022 SAN DIEGO CA 92145-2001

If you have any questions, please contact our Natural Resources Division staff at (858) 577-1108/4088.

Sincerely

T. C. FRIES

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps Environmental Management Officer By direction of the Commanding Officer

Encl: 1. Draft INRMP Update
2. Draft EA for INRMP

Copy to w/o enclosures: Sikes Act Coordinator Region 8 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2800 Cottage Way, Room W2610 Sacramento, CA 95825

Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps CMC LFL-1, Rm 3112 2 Navy Annex, Room Washington, DC 20380-1775

Gene Stout

From: "Boyer CIV David A" <david.a.boyer1@usmc.mil>

To: "Snyder, Mr. Jonathan (USFWS)" <jonathan_d_snyder@fws.gov>; "Osborne, Ms. Meredith (CDFG)"

<MOsborne@dfg.ca.gov>

Cc: "Likins CIV Zachery H" <zachery.likins@usmc.mil>; "Orndorff CIV Ryan" <ryan.orndorff@usmc.mil>;

"Moog CIV William C" <william.moog@usmc.mil>; <mfluharty@dfg.ca.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 3:36 PM

Subject: Review of MCAS Miramar Draft Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

Colleagues,

My purpose in sending you this message is to share with you that we are about 60 days out from sending the draft update of our Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Marine Corps Air Station Miramar to you for your review and comment. We believe that we have addressed the comments and suggestions that were discussed at the 23 September 2009 scoping meeting we had with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game staff.

Your opportunity to review and comment on the draft update will generally be concurrent with a public review and comment period during August. As a matter of policy, we will be requesting written comment or statement that you have no comment to provide. At the time of transmittal, we will identify a requested response timeframe that will be at least 45 days from the date of transmittal.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

David Boyer

Director, Natural Resources Division

Environmental Mgmt. Dept., MCAS Miramar Telephone: (858)577-1125 or DSN: 267-1125

Fax: (858)577-4200 or DSN: 267-4200

E-mail: "david.a.boyer1@usmc.mil"

Learn more about the Environmental Management on Miramar: http://www.MiramarEMS.com Natural Resources:

http://www.miramar.usmc.mil/ems/environmental_programs/nat_resources/default.htm

Cultural Resources:

http://www.miramar.usmc.mil/ems/environmental_programs/cultural/default.htm

MCAS Miramar INRMP:

http://www.miramar.usmc.mil/ems/environmental_programs/nat_resources/managementplan.htm

Gene Stout

From: "Boyer CIV David A" <david.a.boyer1@usmc.mil>

o: <MOsborne@dfg.ca.gov>; "Brubaker, Ms. Kathleen" <kathleen_brubaker@fws.gov>; "Sirchia, Ms.

Felicia" <Felicia_Sirchia@fws.gov>

Cc: <gstout@lpbroadband.net>; "Kassebaum CIV JoEllen" <joellen.kassebaum@usmc.mil>

Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 10:22 AM

Subject: MCAS Miramar - INRMP Update Scoping Meeting

Ladies,

We have just awarded a contract for updating our Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for MCAS Miramar. Our current INRMP covers the period through 2010, but to complete the update process with your agencies and public review, we need to start our revision process.

Because your agencies are important partners for preparing and implementing INRMP's, I'd like to schedule a scoping meeting for the update effort with at least the key points of contact from each of your agencies. Some of you may remember that we did this about 5 years ago when we started that last update. This is the best time to provide input on information you would like to see, or need to see, in the INRMP. We will also discuss the general preparation timeline and reviews.

Knowing that you have a lot on your plates, I looking more than a month into the future. The best dates for our team would be the week of September 21st (any day this week). I would hope to keep the meeting time to about 2 hours. We could host the meeting here at MCAS Miramar or at one of your offices.

I'm hoping to schedule one meeting with both USFWS and CDFG representatives since we sit through the annual reviews together. However, if that is not possible, we can meet separately during this timeframe at each office.

I ask that you reply to all addressees regarding your availability to participate by August 20th. Please share any needs or desires for a meeting location. Once I've heard from both agencies, I'll work to schedule a specific time for meeting(s).

If you are no longer the point of contact for natural resource management planning at MCAS Miramar, please forward this request to the appropriate person(s) to contact me.

Thank you,

David Boyer
Director, Natural Resources Division
Environmental Mgmt. Dept., MCAS Miramar
Telephone: (858)577-1125 or DSN: 267-1125
Fax: (858)577-4200 or DSN: 267-4200
E-mail: "david.a.boyer1@usmc.mil"

Learn more about the Environmental Management on Miramar:

8/26/2009

Affidavit of Publication regarding the Public Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact for the Implementation of the MCAS Miramar INRMP.









P.O. Box 120191, San Diego, CA 92112-0191

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

MCAS MIRAMAR PO BOX 452001 ATTN: AMY B SORIANO CIV SAN DIEGO, CA 92145-2000

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ss. County of San Diego }

The Undersigned, declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California: That she is a resident of the County of San Diego. That she is and at all times herein mentioned was a citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty-one years, and that she is not a party to, nor interested in the above entitled matter; that she is Chief Clerk for the publisher of

The San Diego Union-Tribune

a newspaper of general circulation , printed and published daily in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, and which newspaper is published for the dissemination of local news and intelligence of a general character, and which newspaper at all the times herein mentioned had and still has a bona fide subscription list of paying subscribers, and which newspaper has been established, printed and published at regular intervals in the said City of San Diego, County of San Diego, for a period exceeding one year next preceding the date of publication of the notice hereinafter referred to, and which newspaper is not devoted to nor published for the interests, entertainment or instruction of a particular class, profession, trade, calling, race, or denomination, or any number of same; that the notice of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in said newspaper in accordance with the instructions of the person(s) requesting publication, and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

Aug 26, 2011, Aug 27, 2011, Aug 28, 2011

Affidavit of Publication of

Legal Advertisement Ad # 0010542709 ORDERED BY: AMY SORIANO Motice of Availability Final Environmental Assessment/Finding of Mo Significant Impact for Implementation of the MCAS Miramar Integrated Natural

Pursuant to Section 102(2) (c) of the Notional Environment of the Notional Environment of the Notional Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1800-1908), the Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed and m Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed and m Environmental Assessment (EA) has been completed and m Environmental for the Proposed implementation of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar mearated Natural Plan (IMRAMP).

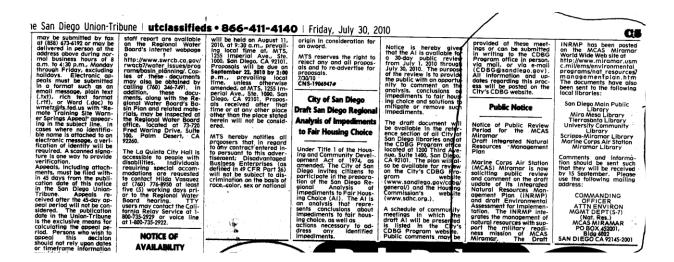
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A thorough analysis of environmental resources determined that involved that involve

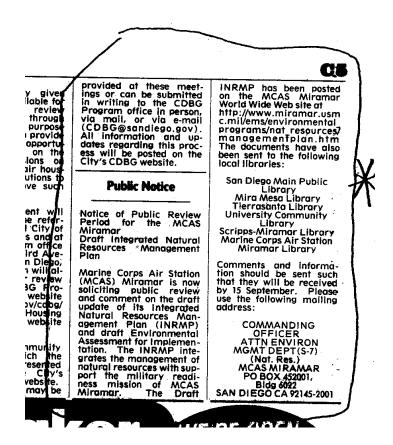
The EA and Finding of No Significant Inpact addressing this action are on file and maybe reviewed by interested parties by contacting: Commanding Officer, Attn. Environ Mamil Officer, MCAS Miramar, P.O Box 45001, Son Diego, CA 92145-2001, Telephone: 7, 1008

Public Notice on July 30, 2010 (and July 31 and August 1) in The San Diego Union-Tribune advising the general public that the Draft INRMP was available on the environmental portion of the MCAS Miramar web site and in local libraries and requesting reviews and comments on the Draft INRMP by September 15, 2010.

Top of page



Enlargement of notice



Letters to lease/easement holders

Lessees and easement holders that are likely interested in natural resources management on the Station were contacted as part of the INRMP and environmental assessment review process.



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR
P.O. BOX 452001
SAN DIEGO, CA 92145-2001

5090 Ser 5RE/0058 July 26, 2010

Mr. Robert Fipp
Real Estate Project Manager
County of San Diego Sheriff's Department
Real Estate Services Division
555 Overland Ave, Suite 2110
San Diego. Ca 92132

SUBJECT: PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD FOR THE MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
MIRAMAR DRAFT INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
PLAN

Dear Mr. Fipp:

In compliance with the Sikes Act, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar (Station) has prepared an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The INRMP addresses resource management on all of the lands for which MCAS Miramar has real property accountability, including lands occupied by others pursuant to a license, lease, easement, use agreement, or right of way. Natural resources management actions undertaking by, or on behalf of, the Marine Corps are planned for and do occur on or around your area of operation.

Your real estate interest with the Station provides that the rights shall be subject to such reasonable rules and regulations to ensure that the exercise of such rights shall not interfere with the Government activities at the facility. One purpose of this letter is to provide notice that your actions in regards to the natural resources on the Station must be consistent with the philosophies and supportive of the objectives of the MCAS Miramar INRMP.

Given that the INRMP covers lands associated with your operations, we are providing you with notice that we are in the process of revising our INRMP. At this time, we solicit your review and comment on our Draft INRMP to ensure that issues important to you are considered. To address the implementation of planned actions in the INRMP, we have prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that you may also review and provide comments. Concurrently, we are providing the INRMP and EA to the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comment as required by the Sikes Act, and we are announcing an opportunity for public review and comment.

For your convenience, we have placed the Draft INRMP and EA on the environmental portion of the MCAS Miramar web site linked from http://www.miramar.usmc.mil/ems/environmental_programs/nat_resources/managementplan.htm

We have also sent a copy of the documents to the surrounding local libraries identified in the enclosure. If you have any comments or information to provide, we request that they are received at the address below by September 15, 2010:

COMMANDING OFFICER, MCAS MIRAMAR ATTN (ENVIRN MGMT DEPT/NR DIV) PO BOX 452001 SAN DIEGO CA 92145-2001

If you have questions about the natural resource management aspects of this plan, please contact our Natural Resources Division staff at (858) 577-1108/4088. For questions related to your real estate interests, please contact me directly at (858) 577-9220.

Sincerely,

Head of Land Use and Real Estate Division By direction of the Commanding Officer

Enclosure: 1. List of libraries to receive the Draft INRMP

Copy to: Jody Mays, Project Manager, Facilities and Special Projects

Libraries sent the MCAS Miramar Draft Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for 2011 - 2016

San Diego Main Public Library 820 E Street San Diego, CA

Mira Mesa Branch Library 8405 New Salem Street San Diego, CA

Tierrasanta Branch Library 4985 La Cuenta Drive San Diego, CA

University Community Branch Library 4155 Governor Drive San Diego, CA

Scripps-Miramar Ranch Branch Library 10301 Scripps Lake Drive San Diego, CA

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Library Building 5305 Miramar Way San Diego, CA

ENCLOSURE (|)

Letters to potentially interested parties

Other parties that are potentially interested in natural resources management on the Station were contacted as part of the INRMP and EA review process.



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR P.O. BOX 452001 SAN DIEGO, CA 92145-2001

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5090 **3 2 2 2 9 7 JUL 2010**

Dear Potentially Interested Party:

SUBJECT: PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR DRAFT INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar invites public review and comment on the draft update of its Integrated Resources Management Plan (INRMP) prepared in accordance with the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 and the associated draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for implementation. This plan will govern the natural resources management program of MCAS Miramar to support the military readiness mission for the next five years.

To facilitate review, we have placed the entire document on the environmental portion of the MCAS Miramar web site, linked from: http://www.miramar.usmc.mil/ems/environmental_programs/nat_resources/managementplan.htm. We have also sent a copy of this Draft INRMP and EA to the surrounding local libraries identified in the enclosure.

We request that any information or comments you wish to provide for our consideration be in writing such that we receive them by September 15th. Please use the following address:

> COMMANDING OFFICER MCAS MIRAMAR ATTN ENVIRON MGMT DEPT(S-7) (NAT RES) PO BOX 452001, Bldg 6022 SAN DIEGO CA 92145-2001

If you have questions, you may contact our Natural Resources Division staff at (858) 577-1108/4088.

Sincerely

T. C. FRIES

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps Environmental Management Officer By direction of the Commanding Officer

Encl: 1. List of libraries sent the Draft INRMP

Libraries sent the MCAS Miramar Draft Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (2011-2015) and Draft Environmental Assessment for Implementation

San Diego Main Public Library 820 E Street San Diego, CA

Mira Mesa Branch Library 8405 New Salem Street San Diego, CA

Tierrasanta Branch Library 4985 La Cuenta Drive San Diego, CA

University Community Branch Library 4155 Governor Drive San Diego, CA

Scripps-Miramar Ranch Branch Library 10301 Scripps Lake Drive San Diego, CA

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Library Building 5305 Miramar Way San Diego, CA

Letter to the California Office of Historic Preservation

s1M



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR P.O. BOX 452001 SAN DIEGO, CA 92145-2001

> IN REPLY REFER TO: 5090 3 2 2 9 2 8 JUL 2010

Mr. Milford Wayne Donaldson California Office of Historic Preservation Department of Parks and Recreation 1725 23rd Street, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR DRAFT

INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dear Mr. Donaldson:

We are in the process of revising our Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar. At this time, we are announcing an opportunity for public review and comment of our Draft INRMP. Concurrently, we solicit your review and comment on the document to ensure we understand and consider any issues that are important to your authorities. We have also sent similar requests to all of the local Indian Tribes in our area to solicit their input.

We have enclosed one copy of our Draft INRMP for your consideration. The document can also be viewed from the environmental portion of the MCAS Miramar web site linked from: http://www.miramar.usmc.mil/ems/environmental_programs/nat_resources/managementplan.htm.

It is our opinion that the majority of actions anticipated in our INRMP are of a nature that would not have the potential to affect a historic property. Those few that might are not sufficiently defined to permit any type of meaningful and project specific consultation at this time. Once any specific planned action is sufficiently detailed for us to determine that it is a type that could have the potential to affect a historic property, and we can define the area of potential effect, we initiate appropriate consultations to address the specific project undertaking.

We request that you transmit any comments you have such that we will receive them by September 15, 2010. In transmitting your comments, please use the following address:

COMMANDING OFFICER MCAS MIRAMAR ATTN ENVIRON MGMT DEPT(S7) (NAT RES) P O Box 452001 BUILDING 6022 SAN DIEGO CA 92145-2001 If you have any questions, please contact our Natural Resources Division staff at (858) 577-1108/4088.

Sincerely, -

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps Environmental Management Officer

By direction of the Commanding Officer

Encl: 1. Draft INRMP Update

Letters to Indian Tribes All letters are identical to the examples shown below.

(Spokespersons, Chairmen, or Chairwomen of the Barona Band of Mission Indians, Campo Kumeyaay Nation, Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, Inaja-Cosmit Band of Mission Indians, Jamul Indian Village, La Posta Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation, and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians.)



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR P.O. BOX 452001 SAN DIEGO, CA 92145-2001

> IN REPLY REFER TO: 5090 **3 2 2 4 2 7 JUL 2010**

Mr. Harlan Pinto, Sr., Chairman Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians P.O. Box 2250 Alpine, CA 91903-2250

Dear Mr. Pinto:

We are continuing the process of updating our Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRMP) Plan for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar. We have prepared a draft update for public and resource agency review. At this time, we also solicit your review and comment on the document to ensure we understand and consider any issues that are important to your tribe. We also seek to understand any desire you have to participate in the process.

Our current INRMP can be viewed on the MCAS Miramar web site: http://www.miramar.usmc.mil/ems/environmental_programs/nat_resources/maragementplan.htm. Our draft update can be viewed from a link at this web site. Please contact us if you would like to receive the plan in a different format.

Additionally, we would like to use this opportunity to solicit any specific interests or concerns you have regarding a two construction projects we are planning. In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), we are contacting you to determine whether you attach religious or cultural significance to the sites involved and if you desire to be consulted further regarding any one or more of these projects. The following paragraphs briefly discuss the projects, and the enclosed figure shows the general location of the construction projects. None of these actions are dependent upon each other, but we have chosen to initially present them to you in one letter to determine your level of interest for each.

We need to develop a parking area for trucks loaded with ammunition and ordnance for transport. We are planning to construct a parking lot near the entrance of our ammunition and ordnance storage magazines in East Miramar. In the past, the location was the site of a homestead from the early 1900's; subsequently, it was occupied by a World War II era artillery/tank target range. The remains of past uses were evaluated in 2003, but the remnants were determined to not be historically significant by the archaeologists who studied the site. The project will involve grading the site flat, paving, and a security fence with lighting.

We are also planning upgrades to our vehicle entrance gates on the Station. There are four gates that may be dismantled in association with reconstruction or replacement. New entrance gate facilities will be placed at or near the locations of the existing gates. The enclosed figure shows the location of the four gates.

We are inviting you to participate with further planning of these projects as they may relate to your cultural interests. If you wish to provide any information or comment, we request that you contact us by September 15, 2010. Please use the following address:

COMMANDING OFFICER MCAS MIRAMAR ATTN ENVIRON MGMT DEPT(S-7) (NAT RES) PO BOX 452001, Bldg 6022 SAN DIEGO CA 92145-2001

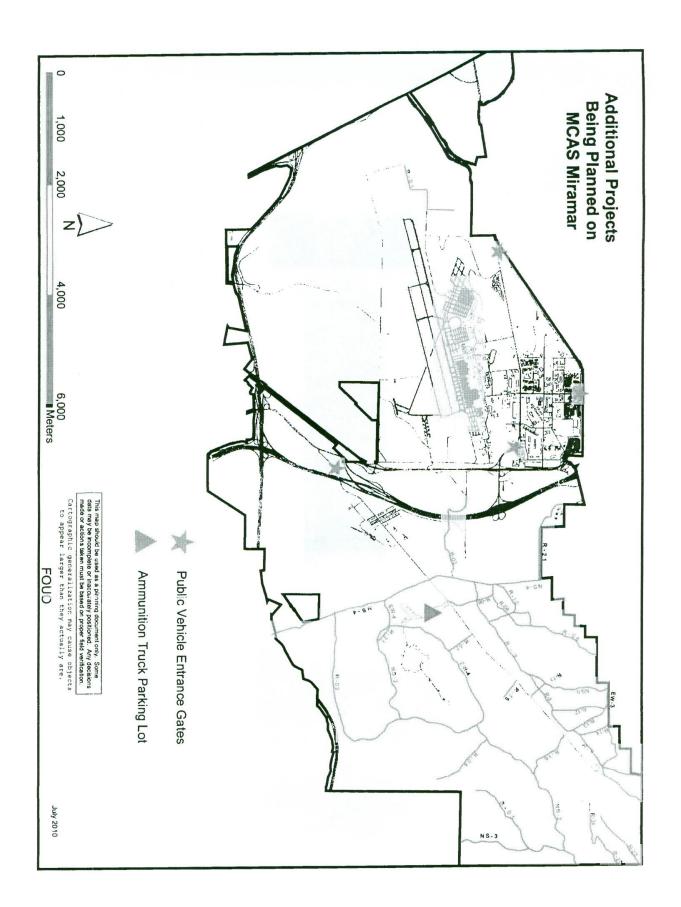
If you have any further questions, please contact our Natural Resources Division staff at (858) 577-1108/4088.

Sincerely,

T. C. FRIES

Environmental Management Officer
By direction of the Commanding Officer

Enclosure: (1) Location Figure





UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR P.O. BOX 452001 SAN DIEGO, CA 92145-2001

5090 3 0 8 6 0 8 APR 2010

Mr. Bobby Barrett, Chairperson Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians Viejas Tribal Council 1 Viejas Grade Road Alpine, CA 91901

Dear Mr. Barrett:

We are in the process of updating our Integrated Cultural Resources Management (ICRMP) and Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRMP) Plans for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar. At this time, we seek any information that you wish to provide regarding the interests of your tribe related to the land occupied by MCAS Miramar that should be addressed in these plans. We also seek to understand any desire you have to participate in the process.

Our current ICRMP can be viewed on the internet at the address: http://www.miramarems.com/environmental programs/cultural/default.htm. Our current INRMP can be viewed on the internet at the address: http://www.miramarems.com/environmental programs/nat resources/default http://www.miramarems.com/environmental programs/outles/default http://www.miramarems.com/environmental programs/outles/default http://www.miramarems.com/environmental programs/outles/default http://www.miramarems.com/environmental programs/outles/default <a href="http:/

Additionally, we would like to use this opportunity to solicit any specific interests you have regarding a number of projects and actions we are planning. In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), we are contacting you to determine whether you attach religious or cultural significance to the sites involved and if you desire to be consulted further regarding any one or more of these projects. Record searches and field surveys are planned or are being done in an effort to determine if any of the projects could affect a historically significant site. Any specific knowledge you would like to share about the occurrence of historic or prehistoric sites in the vicinity of any of the areas identified would be helpful and is requested.

The following paragraphs briefly discuss the projects and any alternatives being considered. The enclosed figure shows the general location of each project and project alternatives. We have also included a "Response Form" that you may use to express any interests or information you wish to share regarding one, or more, of the projects. None of these actions are dependent upon each other, but we have chosen to initially present them to you in one letter to determine your level of interest for each.

The Marine Corps is in the process of increasing its force of personnel (referred to as "Grow-the-Force"). As a part of this effort, additional units are being based at MCAS Miramar. To accommodate these units and the associated Marines, we must add additional and modify existing facilities. Construction of permanent "Grow-the-Force" facilities, labeled as such on the enclosed figure, will be planned on the developed Main Station. This includes expansion of the existing armory, renovation of existing buildings, and construction of new bachelor enlisted quarters, a tactical air control equipment facility, a tactical communications/training facility, and public affairs/photograph office building. These permanent facilities will be construction in previously developed or disturbed areas adjacent to already developed sites. An environmental assessment is in preparation for this action.

The Marine Corps is currently evaluating alternatives for basing the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter on the West Coast in various basing combinations at MCAS Miramar and MCAS Yuma. This new aircraft will replace existing squadrons of F-18 jets at MCAS Miramar. Alternatives for basing this aircraft at MCAS Miramar include redevelopment of facilities on the north side of the runways, and some alternatives would construct new facilities south of the runways where few facilities now exist. To accommodate this new aircraft, we will be redeveloping some of our hangars, aircraft parking areas, parking areas, and buildings. We will also be expanding our aircraft parking aprons to the west. The planning for MCAS Miramar also includes constructing a road extension from Miramar Way across Rose Canyon to our hangar area. These facilities will be located within the Main Station and Flightline area as shown on the enclosed figure. An environmental impact statement is in preparation for this action.

We are preparing a Wildland Fire Management Plan for MCAS Miramar. This plan identifies all of the ongoing fire management actions currently undertaken, such as fuel break and fire road maintenance, firefighter training, fuel modification zones, and maintaining a mutual aid agreement with local jurisdictions. The plan also proposes one new fuel break along an existing road in East Miramar and a number of new fuel modification zones to be maintained by prescribed burning, vegetation cutting/mowing, and chemical treatment. We have identified the locations of the new fuel break and fuel modification zones on the enclosed figure. For this Wildland Fire Management Plan, an environmental assessment for implementation of this plan is in preparation.

We are working with the U.S. Army Reserves for the development of a U.S. Army Reserve Center within a parcel of land adjacent to the existing Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center off of Pomerado Road near Highway 15 (see enclosed map). This new facility would replace two San Diego area leased properties and provide capacity for future increases in personnel, unit stationing requirements, and training. The new center will consist of buildings to provide administration, training, assembly, educational areas, maintenance facilities for military vehicles, unit and individual storage and support areas. An environmental assessment is in preparation for this action.

We are working to assess contamination and planning for clean up actions associated with two recreational trap and skeet shooting ranges in the western part of MCAS Miramar. The locations of these ranges are shown on the enclosed map as "Trap and Skeet Range Clean Up". At this time, we have not developed any specific clean up proposals; however we would like to know any concerns or interests you have with remediation work at the range areas.

Finally, we continue working with the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation, under a Memorandum of Agreement signed on 30 June 2006 regarding transfer of approximately 230 acres of property along the eastern boundary of MCAS Miramar, in Sycamore Canyon, to the County of San Diego to become a public use park/recreational area referred to as the "Stowe Trail". This property would provide a managed public access corridor between the County's Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Open Space Preserves, possibly through the Santee Lakes Recreational Area, to Mission Trails Regional Park. In consideration for the value of the property conveyed, the County of San Diego will prepare necessary environmental assessment documentation, construct fencing along the new boundary, and manage the public access and passive recreational use.

We are inviting you to participate with further planning of these projects as they may relate to your cultural interests. If you wish to provide any information or comment, we request that you contact us by June 1, 2010. If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. David Boyer, Director, Natural Resources Division, at (858) 577-1125 or by electronic mail at "david.a.boyerl@usmc.mil".

Sincerely,

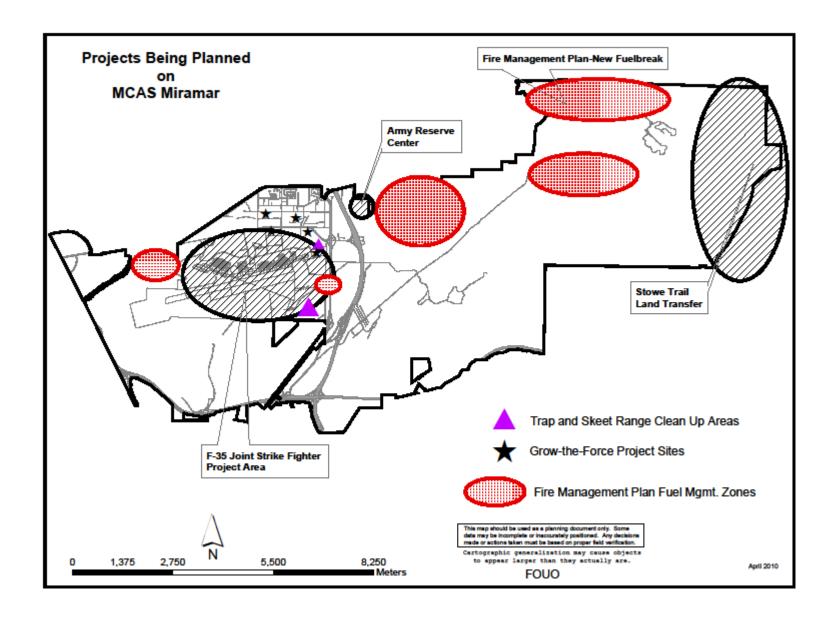
B. M. HALL

Bontall

Environmental Management Officer By direction of the Commanding Officer

Enclosures: (1) Location Figure

(2) Response Form



RESPONSE FORM MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, MIRAMAR, CALIFORNIA

I/We would like to review additional site details regarding: Integrated Cultural Resources Mgmt. Plan/Integrated Natural Resource Mgmt. Plan Grow-the-Force Permanent Facilities Joint Strike Fighter (F-35B) West Coast Basing Wildland Fire Management Planning Army Reserve Center Development Trap and Skeet Range Clean Up Land Transfer to County of San Diego for Stowe Trail				
I/We do not	wish to review or comment on any	of the projects being	planned.	
I/We have co	oncerns and would like to be conta	cted. My phone nun	ber is	·
I/We have th	e following concerns:			
				_
				_
				_
SEND FUTURE CO	NTACT LETTERS MAILED TO	:		
Name	<u> </u>	- Date	T'.1	
Name	Signature	Date	Title	
Tribe Affiliation				
PLEASE RETURN	го:			
Commanding Office Attn: Environmental P.O. Box 452001, Bl San Diego, CA 9214	Mgmt. Dept. (Attn: Mr. Boyer) dg. 6022			

ENCLOSURE (2)

All letters are identical to the example shown below.

(Spokespersons, Chairmen, or Chairwomen of the Barona Band of Mission Indians. La Posta Band of Mission Indians, Campo Kumeyaay Nation, Ewiiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, Inaja Band of Diegueno Indians, Jamul Band of Kumeyaay Indians, San Pasqual Band of Indians, Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and the Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation.)



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR P.O. BOX 452001 SAN DIEGO CA 92145-2001

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5090 1 9 7 6 1 2 MAR 2009

Mr. Johnny Hernandez Jr., Spokesperson Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel P.O. Box 130 Santa Ysabel, CA 92070

Subject: UPDATE OF MCAS MIRAMAR INTEGRATED CULTURAL RESOURCES

MANAGEMENT PLAN (ICRMP) AND INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES

MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP)

Dear Mr. Hernandez

We are beginning the process of updating our ICRMP and INRMP for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar. At this time, we seek any information that you wish to provide regarding the interests of your tribe related to the land occupied by MCAS Miramar that should be addressed in these plans. We also seek to understand any desire you have to participate in the process. We will contact you again when we have prepared the draft updates to solicit your review and comment.

Our current ICRMP can be viewed on the internet at the address: http://www.miramarems.com/environmental programs/cultural/default.htm. Our current INRMP can be viewed on the internet at the address: http://www.miramarems.com/environmental programs/nat resources/default.htm. If you would like to review the documents in a different format, please contact us to discuss other options.

We ask that you contact us with information for our update of these plans or to express a desire to otherwise participate in the process by June 1, 2009. To mail your comments, please use the following mailing address:

COMMANDING OFFICER, MCAS MIRAMAR ATTN ENVIRON MGMT DEPT (S-7/NRD) PO BOX 452001 SAN DIEGO CA 92145-2001

Our point of contact for these projects is Mr. David Boyer, Director, Natural Resources Division, at (858) 577-1125 or by electronic mail at david.a.boyerl@usmc.mil.

Sincerely,

B. M. HALL

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps Environmental Management Officer By direction of the Commanding Officer